



Masking images

Welcome to Corel PHOTO-PAINT®, a powerful bitmap image-editing application that lets you retouch existing photos or create original graphics.

What you will learn

In this tutorial, you will learn how to create a mask that lets you cut out part of an image from its surrounding background. You'll do this by first defining a rough outline of an object and then fine-tuning your mask. Later, you'll import a new image for the mask's background.

In this example, you will cut out the figure of the woman from its original background (shown in the image on the left), and create a photo with a new background, as shown in the image on the right.



In this tutorial, you will learn how to

- mask images by using the Cutout Lab
- modify masks
- import a new background image

Opening the image

You'll start by opening the sample file or your own file. You can acquire an image from a digital camera or scanner.

- 1 Click **File** menu ► **Open**.
- 2 Choose the folder where Corel PHOTO-PAINT is installed.
- 3 Choose the folder **Program files\Corel\CorelDRAW Graphics Suite 13\Languages\EN\Tutorials\Sample files**.
- 4 Double-click the filename **mask.jpg**.




Starting the mask

A mask protects part of an image, allowing you to cut out areas of an image from the surrounding background. You can mask any portion of the foreground or background of an image. With Corel PHOTO-PAINT, a mask is indicated either by the mask marquee or by a tint overlay that surrounds it.


Here, you'll use the Cutout Lab to mask the woman in the sample image by drawing an outline around her.

- 1 Click **Image** menu ► **Cutout lab**.



You can resize the **Cutout lab** dialog box to increase the workspace area.

- 2 In the **Cutout lab** dialog box, click the **Highlighter** tool .

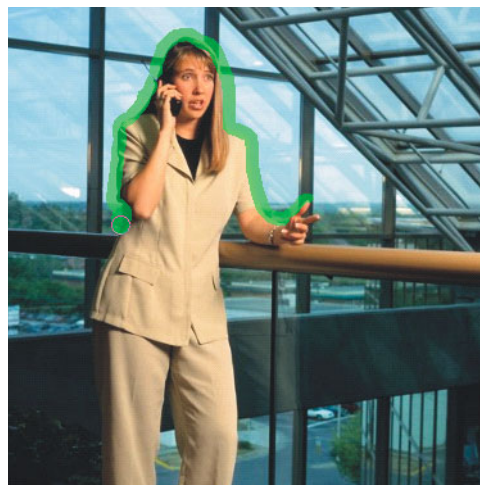
- 3 In the **Nib size** box, type **10**.

If necessary, you can resize the nib at any time during the procedure. You can use the **Pan** tool  to pan to another area of the image.

- 4 In the image window, draw a line along the edges of the woman's upper body.


The line should slightly overlap the surrounding background. If you make a mistake, you can use the **Eraser** tool  to correct it, or you can click the **Undo** button  in the lower-left corner.

This is what the image should look like:



Outlining the hand

You'll now fine-tune the mask around one of the trickiest parts of the image: the hand resting on the railing. You'll achieve a precise outline by zooming in on the hand and adding to or subtracting from the mask as needed.

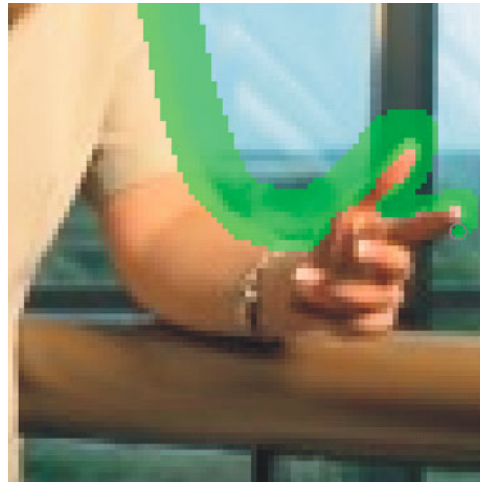
- 1 To mask the woman's hand, click the **Zoom in** button , and click in the image to zoom in for a closer view.


You can also drag to define the area that you want to zoom in to.



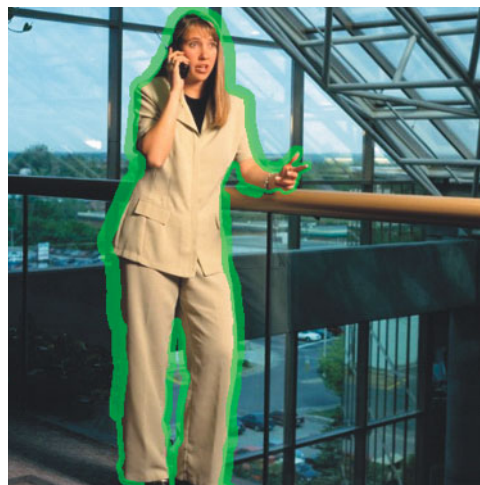
- 2 Continue drawing the line around the woman's hand.

If necessary, you can adjust the size of the highlighter nib by typing a value in the **Nib size** box.



- 3 Click the **Zoom out** button , click in the image to zoom out, and continue drawing the line around the woman.

This is what the image should look like:

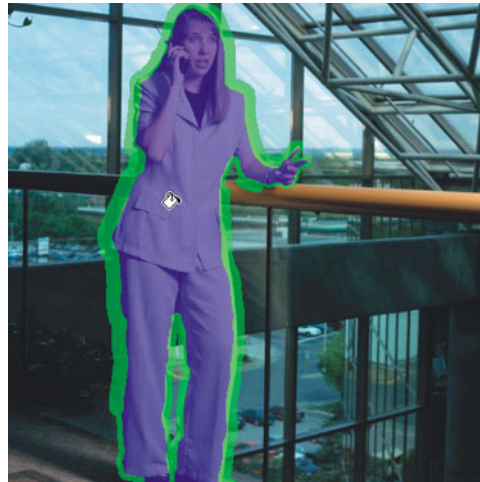


Modifying the mask

You'll now make changes to the mask, so it more closely follows the outline of the woman. You first have to fill the outlined woman so that Corel PHOTO-PAINT knows which portion of the image you want to cut out. Throughout this procedure, you may find it useful to zoom in or out to better judge your progress.

- 1 In the **Cutout lab** dialog box, click the **Inside fill tool** button , and click inside the image area.

This is what the image should look like:



- 2 In the **Preview settings** area, choose **None** from the **Background** list box.

The Cutout Lab lets you preview the cutout object against different background colors. Depending on the type of image that you are using, you may find it useful to change the background. You can choose from none, grayscale, black matte, or white matte. None displays the cutout object against a transparent (checkerboard) background.


- 3 Click the **Preview** button.

This is what the image should look like:



Adding and removing detail

You'll now use the Add Detail and Remove Detail tools to remove any excess background from the mask.

- 1 In the **Cutout lab** dialog box, click the **Remove detail tool** button .
- 2 If necessary, adjust the size of the tool by typing a value in the **Nib size** box.
- 3 Use the tool to remove any excess background from the mask.



In the **Preview settings** area, you may find it useful to enable the **Show original image** check box while adding or removing detail.

If you reselect the **Highlighter** tool, you will lose any changes that you've made to the mask. To see exactly what you may lose by reselecting the **Highlighter** tool, enable the **Show highlight** check box in the **Preview settings** area.

- 4 In the **Cutout results** area, enable the **Cutout as clip mask** option, and click **OK**.


This is what the image should look like:



Adding the antenna


With the woman cut out of the original image as a clipmask, you can now simply paint on the image with white or black paint to add or remove detail. White paint lets you add detail; black paint lets you remove detail. This is ideal for adding fine detail, such as the antenna on the woman's cell phone.

- 1 In the **Object manager** docker, ensure that the clip mask is selected.

The clip mask appears beside the original image in the Object Manager. When selected, it is bound by a red box .

- 2 In the toolbox, click the **Paint** tool .

- 3 In the color control area of the toolbox, ensure that **White** is the active foreground color.

You can switch between the foreground and background colors by clicking the arrow  in the upper-right corner of the color control area.

- 4 On the property bar, choose **400%** from the **Zoom level** list box.
- 5 Paint on the image where the cell phone's antenna should appear. If necessary, you can adjust the nib size to hone the antenna's precise detail.

This is what the image should look like:

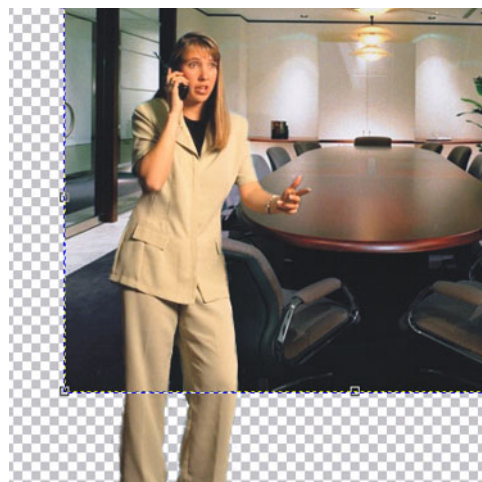


Adding a new background

You'll now import a new background image and add the mask of the woman to the background.

- 1 Click **File** menu ► **Import**.
- 2 Choose the folder where Corel PHOTO-PAINT is installed.
- 3 Choose the folder **Program files\Corel\CorelDRAW Graphics Suite 13\Languages\EN\Tutorials\Sample files**.
- 4 Double-click the filename **background.tif**.
- 5 Position the background image to the right of the woman. You may have to resize the image by using the handles on the highlighting box.
- 6 If the background image appears on top of the woman, right-click the background image, and choose **Arrange** menu ► **Order** ► **Back one**.


This is what the image should look like:





Finishing the project

To finish the project, you'll crop the image and save it.

- 1 In the toolbox, click the **Crop** tool .
- 2 Click and drag to select the area to which you want to crop.
- 3 Double-click to perform the crop.
- 4 Save your project.

This is what the final project should look like:



Now that you've learned how to use the Cutout Lab to mask a part of an image and how to add a different background to an image, you can use this technique to modify your images, and save, print, or post them to the Web.

From here ...

You can explore Corel PHOTO-PAINT on your own, or you can learn more by completing other CorelTUTOR™ tutorials.

For more information about the topics and tools presented in this tutorial, refer to the Help. To access Corel PHOTO-PAINT Help, click **Help** menu ► **Help topics**.

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